



**King County Councilmember**

# Bob Ferguson

[www.metrokc.gov/ferguson](http://www.metrokc.gov/ferguson)

## 2006 BUDGET UPDATE

### District 2

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(206) 296-1002

### In this issue:

- King County Budget Basics
- Veterans and Human Services levy passes
- Housing for homeless funded
- Projects in your neighborhood

### Dear Neighbors:

This newsletter provides an overview of the recently adopted 2006 \$3.45 billion King County budget, highlighting projects in our neighborhoods related to human services, transportation, and parks.

Spending your hard-earned tax dollars wisely is the most important part of my job. As a member of the Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, fiscal responsibility is something I take seriously. I am committed to ensuring a balanced budget and we succeeded in doing that again this year.

In the past four years, the Council has cut over \$100 million from the budget. This year, however, no such cuts were required to balance our budget. This is good news for the many non-profit and human service organizations that depend on King County for financial support.

I am proud to note the passage of the Veterans and Human Services Levy by King County voters. This is a great first step towards meeting the needs of our veterans and vulnerable citizens. Please see the back page for more information.

It is an honor to represent you on the King County Council. Please contact my office if you have any questions about the budget or other issues of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson

### New Phone Number

Effective January 2006, council district boundaries will change. I will represent the new District 1 and my phone number will be (206) 296-1001. All other contact info remains the same.



**King County**

# KING COUNTY BUDGET BASICS

## Where your tax dollar goes

Here's what your property tax dollar pays for:



### **SCHOOLS**

**52¢**

Local school levies and state school fund

### **LOCAL SERVICES**

**31¢**

City and local services, including unincorporated roads, fire, libraries, parks & hospital districts



### **KING COUNTY**

**15¢**

King County General Fund & Regional Services

**PORT OF SEATTLE**  
**2¢**



**King County receives an average of 15 cents of your property tax dollar to provide regional services.**

Your property tax check is paid to "King County" because property tax collection is a duty of the County treasury. However, King County only keeps 15 percent of your tax dollars. The County treasury disburses the remainder of your property taxes to schools and local governments, including cities and other taxing districts.

## Housing for Homeless Proposal Funded!

In May, I proposed using surplus county funds to create transitional housing for the homeless. My proposal was modeled after transitional housing at the Aloha Inn, an Aurora Avenue motel purchased by the city of Seattle to replace the first homeless encampment in 1991.

I am excited that the King County Budget funds over \$3.8 million for this proposal. These funds will enable King County to acquire and renovate approximately 5 closed motels to create housing for homeless with on-site support services.

Tent city is a band-aid, not a solution. The County must do more to assist the homeless find jobs and save rent money with a real roof over their heads. I will keep you updated on our progress in achieving this goal.



***Bob volunteered and spent the night at Tent City when it was located in Lake City. Pictured with him are volunteers from the dinner crew at Lake City Christian Church.***

# PROJECTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

I am proud to pass a budget that supports human services, transportation, and parks for North Seattle. At my request, the following projects were recently approved by the King County Council.

## North Seattle Human Services Funding

### North Seattle Family Center

Funding supports a Latino Family Advocate and expands Latino programming and support services at the North Seattle Family Center located in Lake City.

### Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services

Funding will be used to build the youth room at the new transitional housing program for deaf and deaf-blind victims of domestic violence or sexual assault and their children located in Maple Leaf.

### Maple Leaf Lutheran Church Shelter

Funding will be used to build showers and remodel a kitchen for use by the homeless at the year-round emergency shelter hosted by Maple Leaf Lutheran Church and Seattle Housing and Resource Effort.



*Bob served lunch to seniors at the Wallingford Senior Center.*



*Bob and staff member Katie Comer volunteered at the North Seattle Family Center.*

### Wallingford Community Senior Center

Funding will provide educational health workshops, support groups, and other outreach and services for independent seniors.

### North Helpline Emergency Services and Food Bank

Funding will be used to purchase or retrofit a new building for the North Helpline Food Bank currently located in Lake City. Additional funding will support emergency services.

### Seattle Youth Garden Works

Funding will provide 30 homeless youth after school work in gardens planting and harvesting vegetables to sell at weekly farmer's markets.

### Child Learning and Care Center

Funding will support scholarships to provide child care for low-income families at the University District Child Learning and Care Center.

# PROJECTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## North Seattle Bus Service

As a daily bus rider, I understand that public transportation must be safe, affordable, accessible, and reliable. I am committed to funding public transportation to expand bus service and encourage more citizens to ride the bus. Funding that I supported for affordable fares and enhanced security was included in the budget.

### No Bus Fare Increase

I am pleased to announce that all transit fares and bus pass levels will remain at current prices and not increase in 2006. Due to recent unprecedented rising gas and diesel fuel costs, it was a challenge to maintain these rates.

### Enhanced Metro Bus Security

The budget provides funding for the Department of Transportation to focus on emergency preparation to ensure safe public transit by developing and coordinating preparedness efforts, emergency response, and recovery activities.



***Bob rides the #41 Metro Bus from the Northgate Transit Center to downtown Seattle.***

✂  
**ACTION-GRAM**

***As your elected representative, I appreciate hearing your comments and concerns. Please fill out the form below, include postage, and mail. You can also email me at: [bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov](mailto:bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov).***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to be added to Bob's email news list.



# PROJECTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## North Seattle Parks & Open Space Funding

As a Seattle native, I grew up enjoying the many parks Seattle has to offer and I am committed to preserving and enhancing these open spaces for the enjoyment of our community. Parks are an important function for creating a sense of community and enhancing our quality of life. I am pleased that funding which I requested for three North Seattle parks was included in the budget.

### **Pinehurst Pocket Park**

Funding will be used to build the entryway arbor for the new community Pinehurst Pocket Park located at Northeast 117th Street and 19th Avenue Northeast. The Pinehurst Community Council spearheaded this pedestrian-oriented neighborhood park. To get involved, contact Garth Ferber at (206) 440-8289.



*Bob with Ella Thompson, Chair of Friends of Ravenna Playground.*

### **Dahl Playfield**

Funding will support ball field improvements at Dahl Playfield located at 7700 25th Avenue Northeast. This community project is spearheaded by Friends of Dahl Playfield who formed to renovate the aged playfield and upgrade the unsafe play equipment. To get involved, contact Christine Larsen at (206) 522-2522 or visit [www.dahlplayfield.org](http://www.dahlplayfield.org).

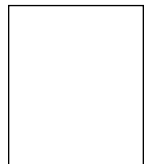
### **Ravenna Playground**

Funding will support construction of the Ravenna Park Playground located at the 5500 block of Ravenna Boulevard. Friends of Ravenna Playground began this project to renovate the out-of date playground equipment. To get involved, contact Ella Thompson at (206) 527-4960 or visit [www.ravennaplayground.org](http://www.ravennaplayground.org).

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**Bob Ferguson**

**King County Councilmember  
Room 1200  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104**

# ACTION-GRAM



## Bob Ferguson

King County Councilmember  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

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# SAVE THE DATE!

## Town Meeting on Emergency Preparedness

**Tuesday, January 31**  
**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Meridian Park Elementary  
17077 Meridian Avenue N.  
Shoreline 98133

*More information coming soon!*

## VETERANS AND HUMAN SERVICES LEVY

The Veterans and Human Services Levy overwhelmingly passed in the November General Election. This was a very satisfying resolution for me personally because I sponsored and led the effort to place this levy before the voters. The six year levy will provide over \$13 million for 2006.

Half the revenue will support veterans and their families with post-traumatic stress disorder, employment assistance, and other treatment services. Like many of you, I come from a family of veterans. Whatever we may think of our Country's involvement with conflicts abroad, we all agree that our veterans deserve our support when they return home.

The other half of the levy revenue will be used to support regional human services. As a former director of an emergency services office, I'm pleased that over \$6 million annually will be available to support programs such as senior services, homelessness prevention, and mental health counseling.

The levy is an important first step towards better funding our regional critical human services. Thank you to those who supported our veterans and human services!



*Bob's father, Murray Ferguson (left), served in the Navy.*